



ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

MEMORANDUM

SFUND RECORDS CTR
2081948

TO: Paul La Courreys, EPA Region 9 Site Screening Coordinator

FROM: Paul H. Brown, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *PUR*

DATE: August 12, 1988

SUBJECT: Reassessment of Valerion Corporation, Riverside

EPA ID#: CAD980884415

THROUGH: Tom Carter, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *TC*

COPY: FIT Master File
Patty Cook, Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Don Plain, California Department of Health Services,
Sacramento
Jim Bennett, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana
Region, Riverside

INTRODUCTION

Under Technical Directive Document number F9-8709-019, Ecology and Environment, Inc.'s Field Investigation Team (FIT) has been tasked to reassess all Preliminary Assessments (PAs) in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) with "active" or "pending" status according to guidelines established to implement the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The strategy for determination of further action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) is based solely on each site's potential to achieve a score high enough on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). This strategy is intended to identify those sites posing the highest relative risk to human health or the environment. All other sites needing remedial or enforcement follow-up will be referred to the States or an appropriate Federal agency.

This site was evaluated primarily using the original HRS model. Additionally, this site was also evaluated for its potential to score using the draft revised HRS model. The following is a summary of FIT's findings with regard to this site.

t/val/para/pb

recycled paper

SUMMARY

Valenite, a division of the Valerion Corporation, manufactured tungsten carbide toolings from 1970 until 1982 at 2180 Iowa Avenue in Riverside, California. The Valerion Corporation has since undergone a merger to become GTE-Valerion. The plant employed approximately 60 employees. From August 1982 until some time in 1984, the site was inactive. In 1984 the site was purchased by Valley Printing and has been operated as a printing shop until the present.

A 1978 inspection by the City of Riverside's industrial waste inspector indicated that all equipment on-site was of the regeneration or recirculation type. Wastes produced on-site included metal filings, heptane (solvent) grinding sludge, oil, and graphite. The metal filings were reclaimed and returned to the production process. The heptane was recycled through an evaporation and distillation process that was 97.85% efficient. The 2.15% left over was lost to evaporation in the atmosphere (ref.1). The grinding sludge was collected in 55-gallon drums allowed to dry out and reused in production. No information on the regular disposal of waste oil and graphite is available. The process equipment on-site was serviced monthly, including, removal of solids, by an unknown contractor. The type of waste solids removed and manner of eventual disposal is unknown. The City of Riverside conducted another inspection in 1981, after receiving an anonymous tip that chemicals had been disposed of in a pit behind the plant. The inspection report noted trace materials of an oil origin along with graphite in two major areas. The facility manager indicated that the practice of dumping oil and graphite had been stopped several months earlier but provided no further information. The site has been regulated by the City of Riverside's Industrial Waste Section and is not listed in the RCRA data base. No on-site soil testing has been conducted.

The amount of waste dumped on-site cannot be determined from available file information. However, the trace amounts described by the inspector indicate a small quantity of waste on-site.

The site's location on the outskirts of the Riverside area limits the potential groundwater targets. Local groundwater is contaminated with dibromochloropropane and nitrates and is not used for drinking water within 3 miles of the site. The only well water use within 3 miles of the site is for crop irrigation. The nearest well used for irrigation is 1.75 miles from the site and has a screened interval from 60 to 92 feet.

The surface water nearest the site is the Santa Ana River, 2 miles away. No use is made of this surface water, however. The Santa Ana River south of the City of Riverside is a riparian wetland and a proposed critical habitat for the least bells vireo, an endangered bird. This area is approximately 3 miles from the site.

The site's air route target area encompasses a significant urban area. The northern half of metropolitan Riverside is located within 4 miles of the site. The City of Riverside has a population of 203,000; however, it covers an area much larger than the area within 4 miles of the site.

The possibility of a significant health hazard emanating from this site through the groundwater, surface water, or air route is low due to the apparently small amount of waste on-site. The lack of surface water intakes or groundwater wells that provide drinking water within 3 miles also limits this site's potential for posing a health hazard serious enough for listing on the NPL.

RECOMMENDATION

1) EPA

Based on the current HRS model, FIT recommends that no further remedial action be planned for Valerion Corporation for the following reasons:

- o no evidence of substantial waste quantity;
- o no surface water targets;
- o low number of groundwater targets; and
- o no observed release to air.

2) State or Other Agency

Copies of this reassessment will be sent to DOHS and RWQCB, for their consideration.

EPA CONCURRENCE

Initial

Date

No Further Action Under CERCLA

VE

9/12/88

High-Priority SSI

Medium-Priority SSI

1. PA 1984 Michael Pardee
2. USDOC Climate atlas 1973 64" map.
3. Phone call to Bob Ayres 6/29/88
4. DWR 1961 Regional geologic map indicates Riverside area is alluvium and associated deposits - recent, and Pleistocene in age.
5. straight chain hydrocarbon, with toxicity of cyclohexane (heptane)
6. Only clue to waste disposed on site is some localized oil stains on soil and accusations of employee inspection of site revealed no problems.
7. assuming 500 acres of farmland watered by well water from wells within 3 mi of site
8. USGS 7.5 min Quad S. Bernardino South, Riverside West.
9. Phone call to Dick Zimbel USF+WLS 6/24/88
10. earlier contact with Riverside county flood control officials indicated no use is made of Santa Ana River water.
11. Heptane: highly reactive.
- 12.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: <u>§ Riverside County Health Dept.</u>		
DEPARTMENT: <u>Hazardous Waste Section</u>		
ADDRESS/CITY: <u>Riverside</u>		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: <u>CA.</u>		
CONTACT(S)	TITLE	PHONE
1. <u>Judy Fuosoy</u>	<u>Haz. Waste. Prog. Mgr.</u>	
2. <u>Sandy Bunchak</u>	<u>Buried Tank Prog. Mgr.</u>	
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: <u>Paul H. Brown</u>		DATE: <u>6/23/88</u>
SUBJECT: <u>Riverside Co. Reassessment</u>		
SITE NAME: <u>Cresta Verde Golf course - CAD 060759297</u> <u>Riverside Cement, Crestmore - CAD 06384443</u> <u>City of Riverside Public Utilities - CAD 040502114</u> <u>Valerion Corp CAD 980 884419</u>		EPA ID#: <u> </u>

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JLF
Judy is the County Hazardous waste prog. mgrs. She indicated that her office has no file on Valerion Corp, Pacific Automotive, or Cresta Verde G.C. She referred me to Sandy Bunchak the buried tank prog. coordinator for info on Riverside Cement and City of Riverside Public Utilities.

Riverside Cement: Is currently in the process of removing a 1,000,000 + Gallon Cement tank. The tank was badly leaking and removal of oil contaminated dirt was ruled out as too costly. The tank held 40#s burner oil for the facilities cement kiln. The facility received a variance to burn the contaminated soil in the kiln furnace. The State's alternative technology office (David Lu) has checked it out. Some soil is being removed to the High desert cement plant & some is stockpiled on site. Joe Ashbury is the Co. H.D. lead person.

Riverside-city P/u. has 9 underground tanks all passed their tests only 1 has waste oil - 500 gal.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service		
DEPARTMENT: Ecological Services Branch.		
ADDRESS/CITY: Laguna Niguel		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:		
CONTACT(S)	TITLE	PHONE
1. Dick Zimbel		714 643-4270
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Paul H. Brown		DATE: 6/24/88
SUBJECT: Endangered Species in Corona and Riverside		
SITE NAME: Cresta Verde Golf Course - CAD06384443 Riverside Cement Cresta Verde - CAD06384443		

City of Riverside Public Utilities - CAD040502114
Valerion Corp. - CAD980884415

Dick indicated that the Prado Basin and Santa Ana River up to below the city of Riverside is a proposed critical (endangered) habitat for Least Bells Vireo (bird). Also continuing studies are locating mating pairs in the area at Temescal Creek and Canyon Chino Creek and Lake Elsinor. The entire area of the Santa Ana River through the city of Riverside is a riparian wetland and a potential habitat for Vireo.

The Stephens Kangaroo Rat is ~~also~~ a proposed endangered species. Its habitat is upland coastal Sage scrub and grassland which is common in the area between Corona & Riverside.

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CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: Riverside City Water Engineer's office		
DEPARTMENT : Water engineers		
ADDRESS/CITY: Riverside		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: Riverside CA.		
CONTACT(S)	TITLE	PHONE
1. Bob Ayres	Water engineer	(714) 782-5285
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Paul H. Brown		DATE: 6/27/88
SUBJECT: Wells near Site's in Riverside		
SITE NAME: ↓		EPA ID#: ↓

Riverside cement Crestmore	CAD063844443
Valerion carp Riverside	CAD980884415
Riverside public utilities	CAD040502114

Bob indicated that the city of Riverside pumps it's water supply from well located 10 miles north in the city of San Bernardino Banker Hill area.

There are wells in town however high nitrate levels and DBCB contamination prevent their use for municipal supply. A wells are used for agricultural and one is an emergency supply well.

any well 3rd is located at the corner of California and Goodman, near Jackson (2.25 miles from Presite) (Riverside P.A.) This well is not used but is suitable for agricultural use. hole is 100' deep screened from 60 to 92'.

Similar wells which are used for agriculture are located near the intersection of 14th Street and the Riverside freeway (approx 1.75 miles from Valerion carp) and at Riverside community college near the parking lot (approx 2.6 miles from Valerion carp)

(CONT.)

CONTACT REPORT

(Pg. 2)

AGENCY/AFFILIATION:		
DEPARTMENT :		
ADDRESS/CITY:		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:		
CONTACT(S)	TITLE	PHONE
1. Bob Ayres.		
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT:		DATE:
SUBJECT:		
SITE NAME:		EPA ID#:

There is an unazed well, the Palmyra well. This well is deeper 400' deep screened from 192'-226' and 242'-282'. Located Palmyra + Hwy (1.25 mi. From Valerion) (2.7 miles from Crestview.)

Another well near where 1st St. meet the freeway is of the same depth. This well is potable but is currently used only for irrigation. (1.5 miles from Valerion) (2.9 miles from Crestview.)

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: Riverside Chamber of Commerce		
DEPARTMENT : E Info		
ADDRESS/CITY: Riverside Ca.		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:		
CONTACT(S)	TITLE	PHONE
1. Mary / 95155		(714) 687-7100
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Paul H. Brown		DATE: 7/11/88
SUBJECT: Pop of Riverside		
SITE NAME: Riverside Cement		EPA ID#: Cad063884443

Riverside P/a
Valerion Corp

CAD0640502114
Cad980884415

Mary indicated that the City of Riverside takes in the communities of Highgrove and Ribidon, Crestview, and Bloomington is part of the City of Fontana. The City of Riverside at last count had 203,000 residents.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: Columbia - O Gorman CO.		
DEPARTMENT : Realty		
ADDRESS/CITY: Riverside		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: CA.		
CONTACT(S)	TITLE	PHONE
1. C. Gorman		714 781-4382
2. Daniel Arter	Valley Printing Recd.	714/682-5539
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Paul H. Brown		DATE: 7/11/88
SUBJECT: Ownership		
SITE NAME: Valerion Corp		EPA ID#: Cad 980884415

M. Gorman indicated that 2180 Iowa ave. was sold to Valley Printing, Rene + Anna Vega 682-5539

about 5-10-88
Daniel Arter indicated that 2180 Iowa was currently Valley Printing a commercial printing plant.